

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6311**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1583

**DATE PREPARED:** Dec 6, 1998

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Child Fatality Review Teams.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Ron Sobecki

**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9854

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill expands the duties of the Community Child Protection Team to include reviewing the investigation surrounding a child's death that is referred to the coroner or referred to the child protection team from the State Child Fatality Review Team or a county health officer. The bill adds the following members to each Community Child Protection Team: (1) The county health officer or the officer's designee. (2) The county coroner or deputy coroner. It allows each child protection team to establish an additional child protection team within the county to assist in carrying out certain responsibilities regarding the review of child fatalities.

This bill establishes the State Child Fatality Review Team. The bill specifies numerous duties of the State Child Fatality Review Team regarding child fatalities. It requires a Community Child Protection Team to report the following to the State Child Fatality Review Team: (1) The cause of death. (2) The circumstances surrounding the cause of death. (3) Agency, community, and school involvement with the family before the death. (4) Trends and recommendations for preventing child deaths. The bill also specifies confidentiality requirements relating to records reviewed by and meetings conducted by each team. It appropriates \$40,000 to the State Department of Health to provide training to the State Child Fatality Review team and each Community Child Protection Team regarding carrying out its responsibilities relating to child fatalities.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 1999.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** This bill requires the establishment of a State Child Fatality Review Team. The State Review Team is made up of 12 members with the Commissioner of the State Department of Health (SDOH) or his designee as the chairperson. The SDOH shall provide staff to the State Review Team. It is estimated that two additional staff persons will be needed to staff the State Review Team as well as developing model child fatality review procedures, reviewing state trends and issues surrounding the deaths of children, issuing an annual report, and other duties outlined in the bill. The total cost of salaries, benefits, and indirect costs for the new positions is \$68,432 in FY 2000 and \$67,541 in FY 2001.

The funds and resources required above could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: (1) Existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; (2) Existing staff and resources currently being used in another program; (3) Authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified; (4) Funds that, otherwise, would be reverted; or (5) New appropriations. The October 30, 1998, manning table shows the SDOH has 94 full time vacancies. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

Members of the State Review Team who are state employees will receive reimbursement of travel expenses. Members of the State Review Team who are not state employees are to receive per diem of \$50 per day, in addition to travel reimbursement. There could also be some additional costs to the SDOH for travel, copying and printing, and for contractual services. These costs can be absorbed within the existing SDOH budget.

The SDOH is also required to provide training in a number of areas to the State and Local Community Child Protection Teams. This bill provides a \$40,000 appropriation from the state General Fund for the training requirements of this bill.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** This bill expands the membership of the existing Community Child Protection Teams by two members. The bill also expands the duties of the Local Community Child Protection Teams.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** State Department of Health.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Local Community Child Protection Teams.

**Information Sources:** Norma Selby, State Department of Health, 233-7573.